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SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO.

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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DATE DISTR. 18 March '54

SUBJECT Chemical Works, National Enterprise,
in Postorna

NO. OF PAGES 5

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REFERENCES:

PLACE ACQUIRED

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The Chemical Works, National Enterprise, in Postorna N 48-45, E 16-527, produced only sulphuric acid and superphosphate. It was set up to supply the large needs of that area. The plant was quite old, having been established before World War I; I do not know exactly what year.
2. Up to 1945, the Postorna plant was an independent chemical plant and the private property of the German firm, A. Schram, whose main offices were in Prague II, Ruzova St., before the outbreak of World War II. After the end of the war, the Postorna plant was placed under the national administration of Synthesia in Prague II, 3 Skretova St. In 1946, the Postorna plant was definitely made a part of Synthesia, which had become a national enterprise by then. Synthesia was under the Czechoslovak Chemical Works in Prague II, 30 Stepanska St. After Synthesia was broken up into individual plants on 1 January 1950, the Postorna plant became an independent national enterprise and became directly subordinate to the Ministry of Chemical Industry in Prague II. For plant's layout see Annex A; for location of plant, see Annex B.
3. There were no plans for improving or enlarging the Postorna plant The equipment in the plant was old, and the plant was engaged in so-called "floor-to-floor roasting" (etazove prazeni). The plant had its own boilerhouse, and got its water from the Dyje River, into which refuse water was emptied. Scrap materials and waste were piled in an area between the plant and the river.
4. Operating at full capacity, the plant used 11,000 tn. of pyrites per year for processing sulphuric acid. It was regularly run at full capacity. In the production of superphosphate, about 20,000

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tn. of raw phosphates were processed annually. However, the exact yearly quantity depended on requirements set up by the Ministry of Agriculture.

5. The "floor-to-floor roasting" of pyrite required no special raw materials, and both crystalline and flotation processed pyrite could be used at the Postorna plant. Besides the processing of domestic pyrites, foreign pyrites, shipped on the Danube or by rail through Austria, were also processed by the Postorna plant. The first tests with pyrite from Chvaletice N 50-02, E 15-26 were conducted at Postorna before the Chvaletice mine was in full operation. Tests were conducted on all the characteristics of the Chvaletice pyrite during mixing with other pyrites. The tests were favorable. As did every other chemical plant, the Postorna plant paid 1,060 crowns for one ton of pyrites, dry weight, 48% pure sulphur contents, franco RR Postorna regardless of transportation charges. Residues were, as in the case of all plants, the property of the plant and were delivered only to the Vitkovice Iron Works which paid 0.70 crowns per kilogram of pure iron. Money earned in this manner was credited to the plant.
6. The Postorna plant got North African and Soviet raw phosphates, shipped via Stettin, the Oder and Kozle Rivers, and then by rail to Postorna. The separate processing of Soviet phosphates was not possible at Postorna, and both Soviet and North African phosphates had to be mixed. This no longer made any difference since the USSR alone was not able to fulfill Czechoslovak needs in phosphates.
7. Sulphuric acid was shipped in tank cars to various consumers, according to instructions from the Ministry of Chemical Industry in Prague, as was the case with other chemical plants. However, due to the large quota of superphosphates produced, most of the sulphuric acid produced was further processed at the Postorna plant itself. Superphosphate was packed in paper bags and shipped to agricultural consumers according to orders from the Ministry of Chemical Industry, based on Ministry of Agriculture distribution demands.
8. The Postorna plant had no research department but had only a chemical laboratory where products were tested and raw materials analyzed.
9. There were about 250 employees at the plant, including workers and officials. The manager was a former worker. His predecessor, Ing. HANUS, a well-known specialist in the production of sulphuric acid and superphosphate, was simultaneously manager of the Prerov Chemical Plant for a long time. In 1950, he started to work for the Ministry of Chemical Industry, department of sulphuric acid and superphosphate.
10. Security measures at the Postorna plant were unusually strict, since the plant was situated near the Austrian border. In addition to having permission from the Ministry of Chemical Industry to enter the plant, one also had to have permission from the offices of the StB in order to enter the restricted border area. The plant had its own militia and was extremely well guarded. In addition to a plant pass, employees had to have a special pass to remain in that area.
11. I never heard of any production difficulties at this plant.

Annexes:

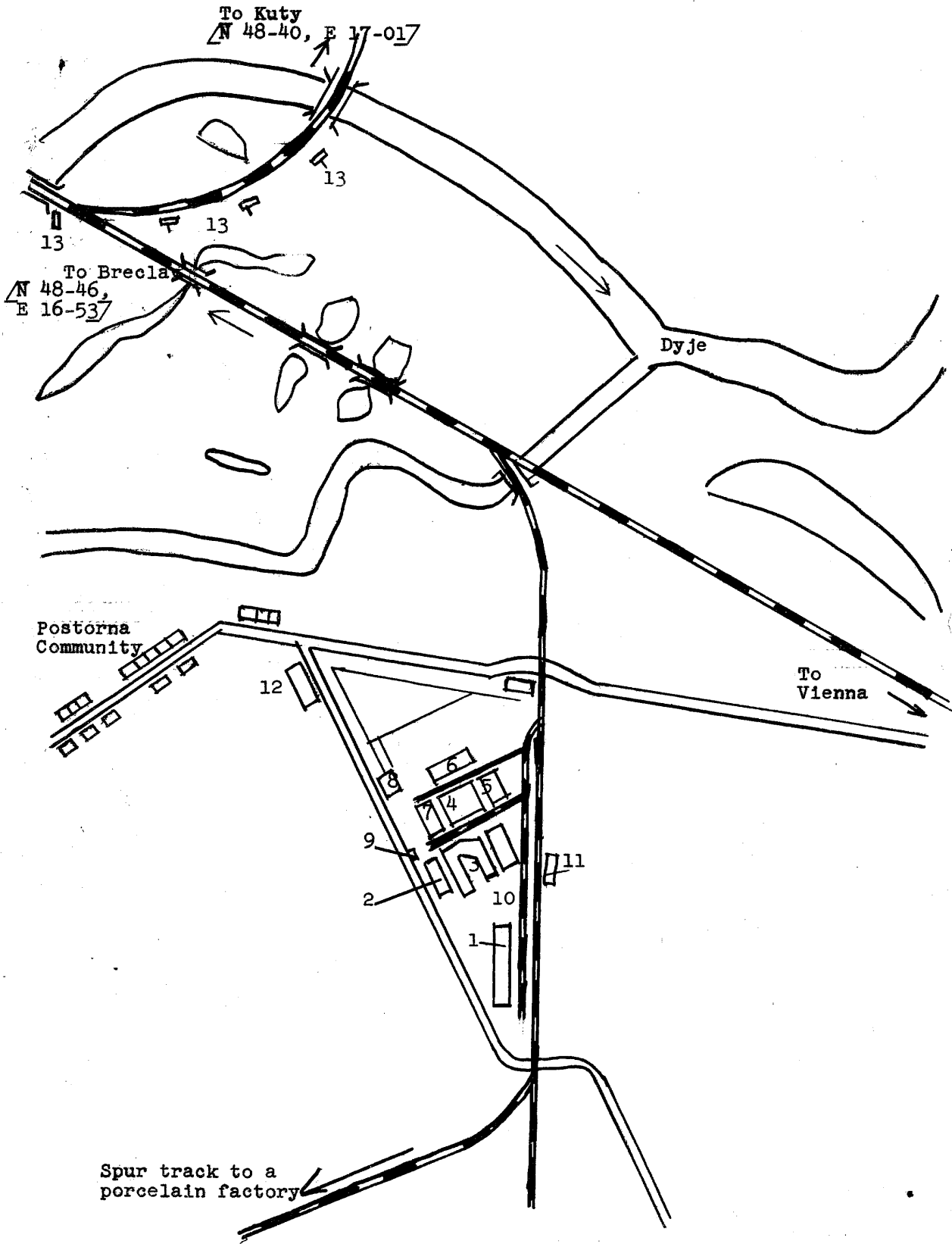
- A. Plant Layout, Chemical Works, National Enterprise, Postorna
- B. Location of Chemical Works, National Enterprise, Postorna

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Annex A: Plant Layout, Chemical Works, National Enterprise, Postorna



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Legend to Annex A, ~~Plant~~ Layout, Chemical Works, National Enterprise,
Postorna

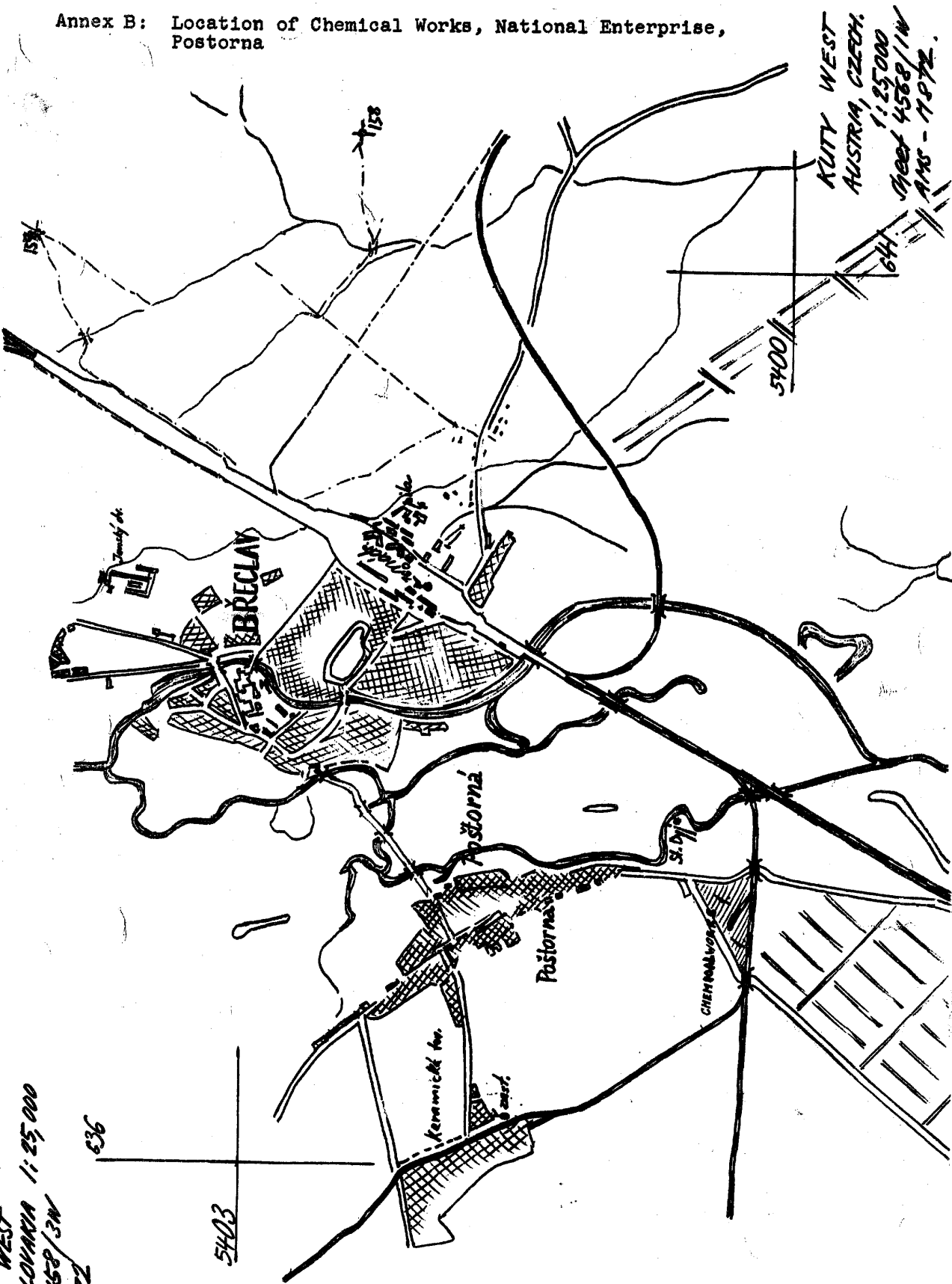
- POINT # 1. Boiler House
2. Administration Building
3. Sulphuric Acid Production Building
4. Superphosphate Production Building
5. Storage: raw phosphate
6. Storage: finished superphosphate
7. Storage
8. Manager's Quarters
9. Gate Guard
10. Storage: pyrite
11. Postorna Railway Station
12. Border Guards' Station
13. Border Markers

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Annex B: Location of Chemical Works, National Enterprise, Postorna



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